in which the loan is being raised or the applicable benchmark(s), as the case may be:

Type of Projects	Existing (all-in-cost)	New (all-in-cost)
Normal Projects.	300	150
Infrastructure.	400	250
Long term.	450	300

(ii) ECBs for meeting rupee expenditure under automatic route to be hedged unless there is a natural hedge in the from of uncovered foreign exchange receivables, which will be ensured by Authorised Dealers (ADs). Under the old ECB guidelines, there was no stipulation of compulsory hedging.

(iii) ECBs exceeding USD 50 million would be permitted for the following end uses only (a) Financing import of equipment and (b) Foreign exchange needs of infrastructure projects. Under the old ECB guidelines there was no end use restriction for ECBs except investment in capital market.

(iv) No financial intermediary (*viz.* a bank, DFI, or NBFC) will be either allowed access to ECBs or to provide guarantees. However, this will not apply to Textile and Steel restructuring packages which have already been announced by the Government in consultation with RBI. Under the old ECB guidelines, there was no such restriction.

(v) ECBs pending utilization would need to be packed overseas. Under the old ECB guidelines, ECB raised were required to be utilized/brought into the country at the earliest.

Term loan granted by various Public Sector Banks

1457. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of term loan granted by various public sector banks individually during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that getting loans from the banks are very difficult even though there is regular announcements that the process is simplified; and

(c) what steps are being taken to streamline the system so that the common man gets the best services from the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The bank-wise details of total outstanding term loans granted by each of 27 public sector banks as on 31.03.2003 (latest available) are given in the statement enclosed. (*see* below)

(b) and (c) The banks have been making concerted efforts to make the credit delivery process simpler and speedier for the borrowers. Apart from the initiative being taken by the RBI to ease sectoral credit delivery mechanisms focusing on agriculture, infrastructure, Self Help Group etc., the banks are also becoming customer-responsive and are stressing on simplifying the process and reduce the credit processing time through constant monitoring and delegation of financial powers down the line.

Statement

Terms loans outstanding as at End-March, 2002 and 2003

(Rupees in crores)

Bank Name	March, 2002	March, 2003
Allahabad Bank	4663	5933
Andhra Bank	3367	4709
Bank of Baroda	12059	13473
Bank of India	15683	14891
Bank of Maharashtra	3535	4494
Canara Bank	10290	13431
Central Bank of India	8392	9781
Corporation Bank	4553	5177
Dena Bank	3386	3710
Indian Bank	2972	4095
Indian Overseas Bank	4662	6105
Oriental Bank of Commerce	5921	7032
Punjab National Bank	13431	16448
Punjab & Sind Bank	2102	2360
Syndicate Bank	6215	7165
Union Bank of India	6365	8652
UCO Bank	5223	6812

Bank Name	March, 2002	March, 2003
United Bank of India	2525	3472
Vijaya Bank	2491	3521
State Bank of India	45073	56237
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1578	1992
State Bank of Hyderabad	2567	3541
State Bank of Indore	1457	1961
State Bank of Mysore	1467	1856
State Bank of Patiala	2981	4196
State Bank of Saurashtra	961	1273
State Bank of Travancore	2035	3074
GRAND TOTAL:	**175954**	**215391**

Income Tax Payers and Pan Allotments

1458. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons assessed to Income Tax as of the last financial year all over the country;

(b) what is the increase in percentage during the current year;

(c) how many PAN cards have been issued so far in the country;

(d) what is the total number of pending applications for PAN all over the country; and

(e) what steps are being taken to speed up the the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The total number of assessees as on 31st March' 03 all over the country was 3,00,19,215.

(b) During the current financial year, 5,71,626 assessees have been added upto 31st October' 03. The percentage increase in the number of assessees over the last financial year can be worked out only after close of the current financial year.

(c) The Income Tax Department has allotted PAN to 3.11 crore persons upto 30th November' 03 out of which 2.93 crore PAN cards have been issued. The issuance of PAN cards for the balance is in progress.